



No. 251

1.
 - (a) Chairman - Honourable Minister in charge of Human Resource Development Department - ex officio
 - (b) Vice Chairman - Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University - ex officio
 - (c) Members:
 - (i) Secretaries – HRDD, Finance, Health, Planning - ex officio
 - (ii) one eminent educationist of higher education to be notified separately;
 - (iii) two Principals of Government Colleges and one Principal of a Private College by rotation every three years to be notified separately;
 - (d) Member Secretary - Director of Higher Education, Human Resource Development Department - ex officio
2. The following shall be the functions of the State Higher Education Council, namely: -
 1. **Planning**
 - (a) to develop State Higher Education Plan for accelerated growth and equitable development of higher education sector;
 - (b) to monitor the implementation of the perspective plan.

2. Academic

- (a) to consider setting up of State Academic and Accreditation Council;
- (b) to bring about accreditation reforms;
- (c) to consider preparation of guidelines for establishing a State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) Commission for State relevant subjects only;
- (d) to maintain quality of curriculum;
- (e) to promote innovation and research;
- (f) to promote training and development of teachers;
- (g) to coordinate activities between different Universities;
- (h) to bring about academic and examination reforms;
- (i) to co-ordinate the programmes of learning centres and monitor their implementation;
- (j) to devise steps to improve the standard of examinations conducted by universities and suggest necessary reforms;
- (k) to promote and monitor publication of quality text books, monographs and reference books;
- (l) to perform such other functions for the realization of the twin objectives of quality and excellence in higher education.

3. Finance and Budgeting

- (a) to receive grants for higher education purposes from all Central funding agencies and schemes;
- (b) to facilitate receipt of State commitment of 4% of its GSDP as funds for higher education as State share to match Central grants;
- (c) to administer and allocate resources, funds, research grants;
- (d) to advise State Government on strategic investments in higher education and promote transparent performance based funding of institutions.

4. Regulatory

- (a) to evaluate proposals for setting up of new institutes and universities;
- (b) to suggest changes and improvement of existing statutes and ordinances;
- (c) to oversee the implementation of UGC norms and Guidelines, Acts and Rules in all Universities;
- (d) to regulate the functions of franchise institutes;
- (e) to develop norms and guidelines regarding allocation of block grants;
- (f) to suggest measures for academic and financial accountability of universities and other institutions of higher education in the State;

3. Funds of the Council

The Government shall pay to the Council every financial year such sums as grant in aid, as may be considered necessary for the functioning of the Council and for the discharge of its responsibilities and duties. The budget shall be allocated as per the plan prepared by the Council.

4. Technical Support Group

The council shall be provided with adequate manpower necessary for the discharge of its functions preferably by re-deploying manpower on deputation based on specific requirement.

5. Report and Auditing

The Council shall submit its annual report on its activities and its funds shall be audited by the office of the Accountant General.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

**Dr. Thomas Chandy
Principal Secretary
Human Resource Development Department**

